

strengthening bone. In addition, calcium agents with good absorptivity, such as calcium chloride, calcium carbonate, calcium lactate, egg shell or milk-derived calcium, etc., or vitamin D can be combined so that the action of strengthening bone thereof will be enhanced.

[0016] Since a medicine, drink, food or feed combined with collagen, fraction containing collagen and/or degradation product thereof has an action of strengthening bone, oral administration of these will be useful for prevention and/or treatment of bone metabolic diseases such as osteoporosis etc.

[0017] Preparation of fractions containing collagen and degradation products thereof, and an action of strengthening bone will be described by exemplifying reference examples and test examples set forth below. Further, the present invention will be illustrated by examples. However, these examples will not limit the scope of the present invention.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-48 and add new claims 49-60 as follows.

49. (New) A composition for strengthening bone in a mammal comprising degraded collagen, calcium, and vitamin D₃.

50. (New) The composition of claim 49, wherein the composition comprises enzymatically-degraded collagen.

51. (New) The composition of claim 50, wherein the composition comprises collagen degraded by limited acid proteolysis.

52. (New) The composition of claim 50, wherein the composition comprises collagen degraded by limited alkaline proteolysis.

53. (New) The composition of claim 49, wherein the composition comprises between 10 mg to 2500 mg.

54. (New) The composition of claim 49, wherein the weight ratio of collagen to calcium is between 0.5-5.0.

55. (New) The composition of claim 49, wherein the weight ratio of collagen to calcium is about 3.75.

56. (New) The composition of claim 49, wherein the calcium is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride, calcium carbonate, calcium lactate, and egg-shell derived calcium, and milk-derived calcium.

57. (New) The composition of claim 49, wherein the collagen is derived from porcine skin or bone.

58. (New) The composition of claim 57, wherein the collagen derived from porcine skin is a lyophilization product of pulverized and defatted skin corium layer.

59. (New) The composition of claim 57, wherein the collagen derived from porcine bone is a lyophilization product of pulverized and decalcified bone.

60. (New) The composition of claim 49, wherein the degraded collagen has a molecular weight of about 2-150 kDa.

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are cancelled and new claims 49-60 are added by the present amendment.
Support for the new claims may be found throughout the original specification and in the